

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN SA 02118 031433Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
AID-05 /073 W
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R 022219Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7907
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USINCSO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN SALVADOR 2118

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, PDIP, PBOR, ES
SUBJECT: NEW FOREIGN MINISTER TAKES OFFICE AND LEAVES SAME
DAY FOR EL SALVADOR/HONDURAS MEDIATION TALKS IN LIMA

REF: SAN SALVADOR 1993

1. AFTER SOME HESITATION (DUE TO FAMILY OPPOSITION), DR. JOSE ANTONIO RODRIGUEZ PORTH (SEE REFTTEL) TOOK OATH AS EL SALVADOR'S NEW FOREIGN MINISTER LATER AFTERNOON APRIL 28. DR. RODRIGUEZ PORTH WAS SWORN-IN BY PRESIDENT ROMERO WHO TOOK THE OCCASION TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE CHANGE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD IN NO WAY AFFECT THE MEDIATION EFFORTS UNDERWAY IN EL SALVADOR/HONDURAS BORDER DISPUTE. PRESIDENT ADDED THAT NEW FOREIGN MINISTER HAS HAD WIDE EXPERIENCE IN NEGOTIATIONS AND WAS FULLY BRIEFED ON STATUS OF BORDER NEGOTIATIONS. PRESIDENT ALSO TOOK OCCASION TO STATE THAT FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER MARTINEZ RESIGNED FOR PURELY PERSONAL REASONS AND THAT THERE WAS GOOD POSSIBILITY
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PAGE 02 SAN SA 02118 031433Z

THAT HE WOULD BE NAMED TO ANOTHER POST
IN THE GOES ADMINISTRATION AND HINTED THAT IT MIGHT BE AS
AN AMBASSADOR.

2. RODRIGUEZ STATED AFTER CEREMONY THAT HE WAS TAKING
THE POSITION WITH THE HOPE OF CARRYING OUT A JOB FOR THE
GOOD OF EL SALVADOR IN GENERAL. HE STATED THAT ONE OF HIS FIRST

OBJECTIVES WOULD BE TO TRY TO IMPROVE THE EXTERNAL IMAGE OF EL SALVADOR "WHICH HAS BEEN DISTORTED BY INFORMATION GIVEN OUT BY SECTORS INTERESTED IN CAUSING DAMAGE TO THE COUNTRY." HE ADDED THAT WITH RELATION TO THE HONDURAS DISPUTE HE FELT BOTH SIDES WANT PEACE AND THAT ALL THAT IS LACKING IS A FORMAL DOCUMENT WHICH WOULD DEFINE THE LINE (BOUNDARY) THAT WOULD SERVE TO CONSOLIDATE THIS PEACE.

3. RODRIGUEZ ACTUALLY ASSUMED NEW POSITION MORNING MAY 1 AND DEPARTED SAME AFTERNOON FOR LIMA TO MEET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER OF HONFRAS AND PERUVIAN MEDIATOR BUSTAMANTE Y RIVERO IN LIMA. FOREIGN MINISTER ACCOMPANIED BY TWO MEMBERS OF EL SALVADOR'S TECHNICAL COMMISSION, DRS. GUILLERMO TRIBUEROS AND ARTURO CASTRILLO HIDALGO. THIS FORMAL MEETING IN LIMA MAY 3, WHERE BOTH COUNTRIES WILL PRESENT THEIR FIRST WRITTEN POSITIONS TO MEDIATOR, WAS ARRANGED AT EARLIER MEETINGS. RODRIGUEZ PORTY IN AIRPORT STATEMENT AGAIN EXPRESSED HIS FAITH IN SUCCESS OF CEGOTIATIONS AND EXPRESSED POSSIBILITY THAT AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED SOONER THAN ANTITICIPATED AND THAT IT MAY NOT EVEN BE NECESSARY FOR MEDIATOR TO VISIT DISPUTED AREAS. FOREIGN MINISTER ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT HE PLANNED TO REMAIN IN LIMA UNTIL MAY 5 AND THEN WOULD FLY TO SAN JOSE TO LEAD SALVADORAN DELE-

GATION TO INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT-ELECT CARAZO ON MAY 8.

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PAGE 03 SAN SA 02118 031433Z

4. COMMENT. RODRIGUEZ PORTH HAS MOVED IN AS NEW FOREIGN MINISTER WITH ABSOLUTE MINIMUM OF DISRUPTION AND WILL KEEP BOTH MAJOR COMMITMDRTS OF FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER (MEDIATION IN LIMA AND PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATIMM IN COSTA RICA) DURING HIS FIRST WEEK OF OFFICE. SOME PERSONNEL CHANGES HAVE TAKEN PLACE AT FOREIGN MINISTRY ALREADY, WITH MOST IMPORTANT BEING REPLACEMENT ON MAY 1 OF DIRECTOR OF PROTOCOL, JUAN RICARDO SAL-AVERRIA, BY AMBASSADOR GUILLERMO RUBIO MELHADO. OTHER CHANGES ARE ANTICIPATED, BUT PRESENTLY APPEARS THAT SUBSECRETARY ROBERTO MENDOZA JEREZ WILL CONTINUE TO OCCUPY NUMBER TWO POSITION IN FOREIGNMINISTRY.
DEVINE

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